

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
June 14, 2017

**Members Attending:** Pat Becker, Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Gary Chipman, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, Sally Hines, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Kevin Markwell, Mary Markwell, Jim McCloud, Lynn Pries, Pastor Tom Rawlinson, Jennifer Weddle, Mike Wu

Chairman Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the opening prayer.

The Minutes for the April 12, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

Chair Rich Fleming asked that the reports from committees be sent to the office a week before Council meetings.

**Finance:** Treasurer Brenda DeGeer reported that after 4 months things are looking good. April was a strong month. Pledged dollars are higher than budget and unpledged dollars are a little low. Total revenues are \$9 k above budget and expenses are running \$16 k below budget. We are in a strong position at this time. (See report.) The Treasurer's report was approved.

Paul Dude announced that he has asked the Nominations Committee not to re-nominate him for another term. In reflecting on his time as chair he is pleased that procedures and policies are now in written form. Recently, Paul noted some unfavorable variances that might reflect some overspending. At the last Finance meeting in April the people in charge of those areas were contacted and reported. This will be done again in August. The auditors have done a great job. The Committee will review the audit and present at the next Council meeting. Paul spearheaded setting up the Finance webpage. He has moved to 3 funds for the activities and assets of the church, has solved the interchurch borrowing problem, and established a committee with high attendance where everyone is able to make their points. On the spot training on the Treasurer's reports has been conducted. He is in favor of adopting 4 principles which are: paying down debt, having a balanced budget, controlling cash balances and being prepared for church property expensive emergency surprises. If these were in place we would inform the congregation during the fall stewardship campaign that we would be using some of their pledged funds toward these goals. Rich thanked Paul for his direction and leadership. (See report.)

**Stewardship:** Rich Fleming reported for Ed Cotner. The committee would like to come up with a way to take advantage of the newly renovated facility to bring other groups in as a means of evangelism and to stimulate the addition of new members. They would like to see a committee put together for this purpose. There will be more conversation about this at the August meeting.

**Building Committee:** Kevin Markwell reported that movement is going forward though at a "glacial" pace. The city needed a letter of credit from the bank as the last thing required before receiving a building permit. Once we have the permit, fencing will go up around the outside and equipment will be moved into the building. We will have about half of the parking lot. Work will take place on the radiators on the second floor. The middle outside stairway will be taken down along with the inside stairway.

Al Brunsting reported that Ollie Taylor will act as the intermediary between the Building Committee and the staff. It is critical that Suzanne know the plans at least a week ahead so she can relocate meetings. Beth Hagemayer suggested we need to be aware of all the AA groups and help them to find new rooms. Pastor Grace said that PADS also needs very clear signage. We need to be

conscious of people who are already anxious about coming to these meetings. Rich thanked Kevin for his extraordinary leadership.

**Annual Conference:** Mary Markwell said that annual conference this year had been revamped. Ordination Sunday was a very nice service with special artwork that supported the theme “How light Shines Through.” In her sermons, the Bishop acknowledged the brokenness within the church and said we need to stay together and not split. Highlights of CUMC’s attendance at the conference included celebrating 150 years of UMW, receiving honors for paying our full apportionment, being recognized for becoming a Rainbow Covenant church, and Mary Rawlinson’s ordination. Susan Keaton said that the conference structure will be reorganized. There will be shepherding teams rather than a person speaking for each program. Pastor Tom said the goal is to be more strategic. There will be strategy teams in each district and then one overall team. Lynn Pries told a moving story about a young man with brain damage who went on to graduate from college and seminary and was ordained at the conference. Both Marilyn Winkler and Greg Dell were mentioned at the Memorial Service. (See report.)

### **Round Table:**

- Michael Wu reported that two people have joined the board of the foundation. George Groves has returned and Sue Mack has joined.
- Rich Fleming reported that 66 keys have been sold for the drive to purchase a new Sanctuary piano. We are within \$4 k of having enough money. We are waiting to find out how much we can get for the present piano. The Joan Uebele memorial fund will cover the cost of moving the piano. Rich is confident that we will raise enough money.
- Jennifer Weddle reported that the UMW Mission School will be held in July with a weekend session on July 13 – 16 and a one day session on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Lynn Pries said we are going to hold another “Community Church in Action” open house the last Sunday in August to invite people to join the different groups and committees. On September 27 – 29 Lynn will be attending the Leadership Institute at the Church of the Resurrection. He asked that anyone else who is interested in attending contact him.
- Susan Keaton reported that the library had held two Saturday work days to cull the collection. They are going to order more books. Everything is going well.
- Beth Hagemayer said that Vacation Bible School will be held from July 17 – 21 and invited everyone to attend an open house on the last day.
- Pastor Tom said he is impressed by the number of people who visit members of the church and a meeting was held to talk about coordinating the efforts of the different groups.
- Joyce Brunsting asked Committee Chairs to let her know if there are any changes to their committees.
- Pat Becker said that Trinity Church in Joliet has been informed that our financial contributions to them will end at the end of July. There was more than a full crew for the Habitat for Humanity house on May 27. There will be additional work days in July and September.
- Chris Garofalo said the choir had an excellent year last year ending with the Faure Requiem which will be repeated in November. He has been humbled by everyone’s support for the fundraising campaign for the new piano.
- Sally Hines said that the Hunger Commission will be conducting a letter writing campaign for Bread for the World in conjunction with one of the services in July.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Grace reviewed the plan for Sundays in the park in July. Before and after the services there will be opportunities to do community service. Pat Shanower has been working on an initiative with the Islamic Center that will involve a free clinic 2 times a month

where patients can get blood work done, be treated for less than acute illnesses and get their prescription costs covered. We have been asked to partner with them. The Parish Nurses will be involved and we are working on doing something with PADS. Pastor Grace is soliciting everyone with the name Grace to participate in buying the key of G on the piano. She will be going on vacation during August and will be visiting her parents in Kenya.

Paul Dude thanked Brenda DeGeer for the wonderful job she has done and particularly noted getting the Letter of Credit for the city on such short notice.

Pastor Grace led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 9, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines  
Secretary

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See additional reports from CUMC Foundation, Music, Missions and Senior Ministry.